Food securisation in Sub Saharan Africa

Mini-symposium E
19 august 17h30- 19h
Room 305 C

People, land and food in sub saharan Africa

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The problem

On average, for Sub Saharan Africa :

- Food availability remains the lowest in the world < 2300 kcal/inhab/day
- This availability relies more and more on imports

What are the evidences from the past?

(43 years)

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Methodology

- Food/inhabitant= Production/inhab + (M-X)/inhabitant - losses
- Production/inhabitant = Food/Ha x Ha/worker x worker/inhabitant
- Food/worker = Food/Ha x Ha/worker
  Partial productivities as in Ruttan, Bairoch and Malassis
- Food and production and M and X expressed in Kcal/day
- Data = FAO Stat 1961-2003 + Improvements / 38 countries
- *Graphical presentation and*
- *comparisons between clusters of countries*

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- First, Graphical presentation of time series for these ratios for SSA
- Then, comparisons between clusters of countries identified on maps.

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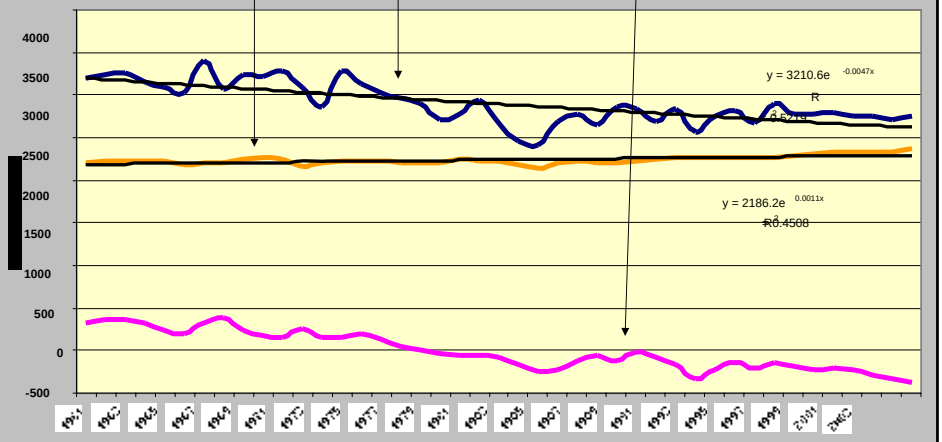
The trade dependency

Food/inhabitant= Production/inhab + (M-X)/inhabitant - losses



The SSA food challenge

- People
- Land
- food

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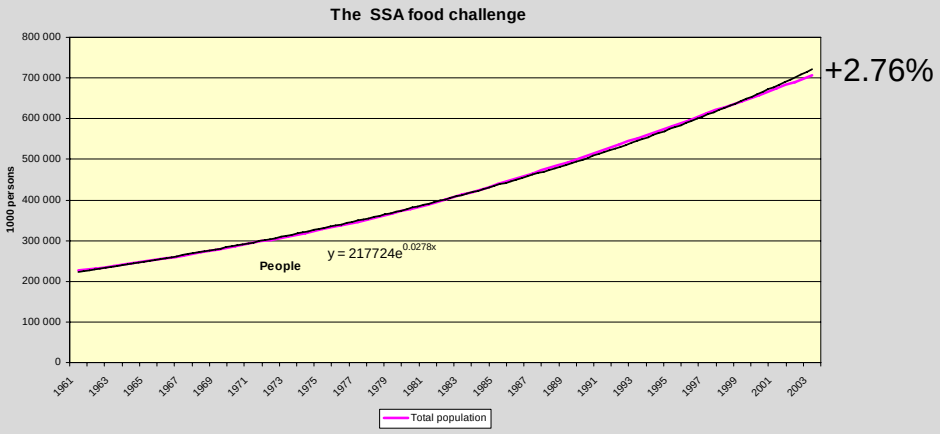
Sustained Population growth



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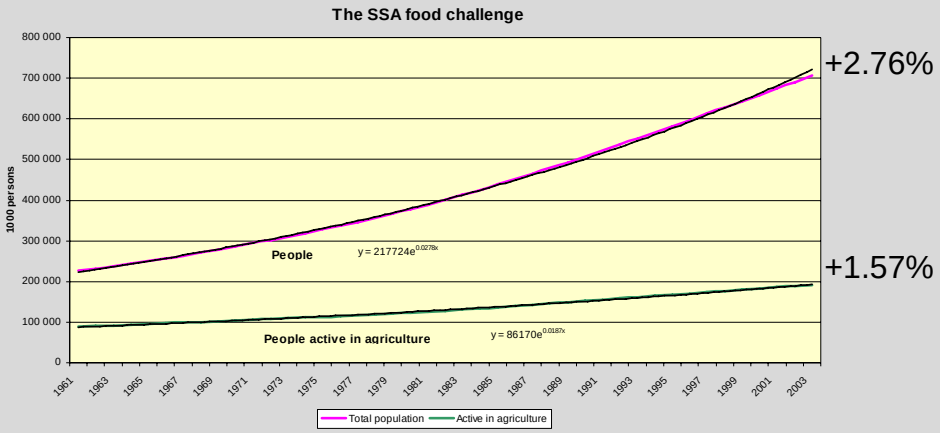
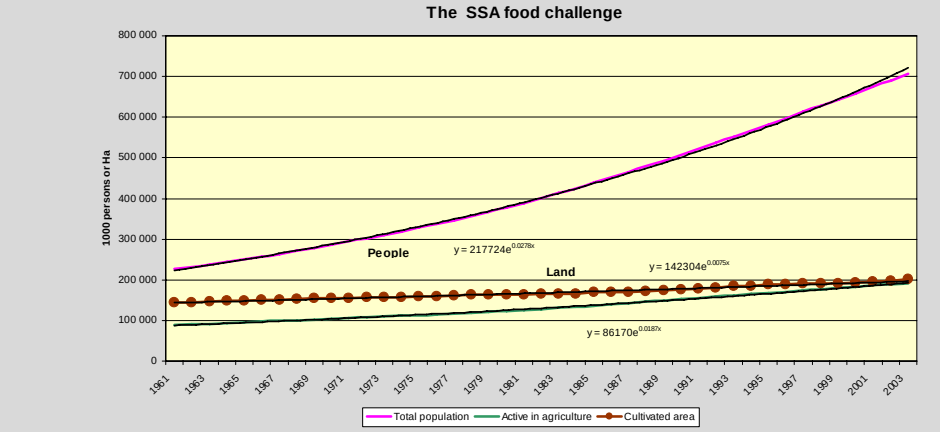
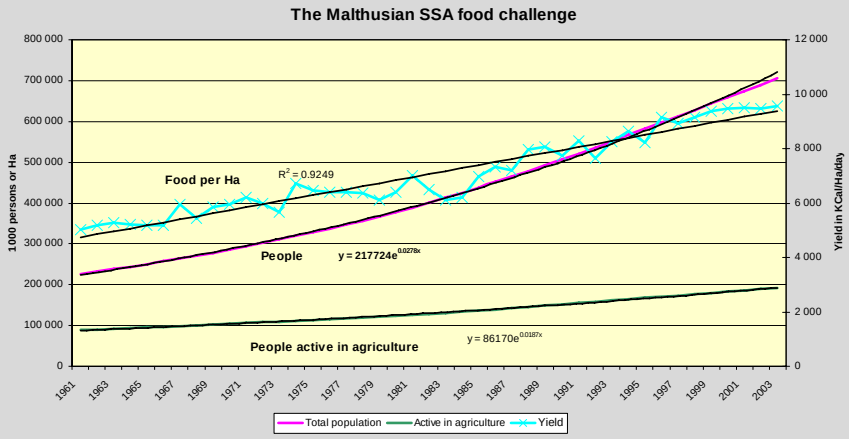
With more and more people in agriculture



Relatively limiting land

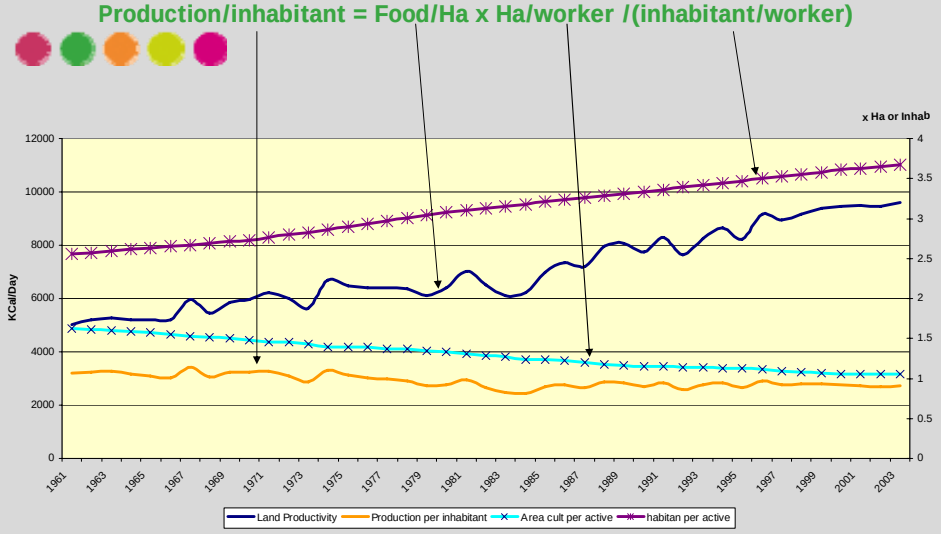


A linear yield increase



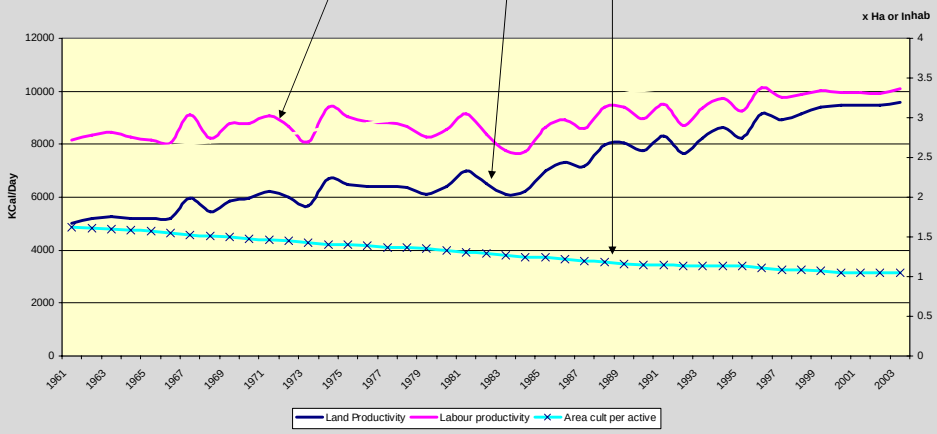
Weak food performances

Production/inhabitant = Food/Ha x Ha/worker /(inhabitant/worker)



Partial Food productivities

Production/worker = Food/Ha x Ha/worker



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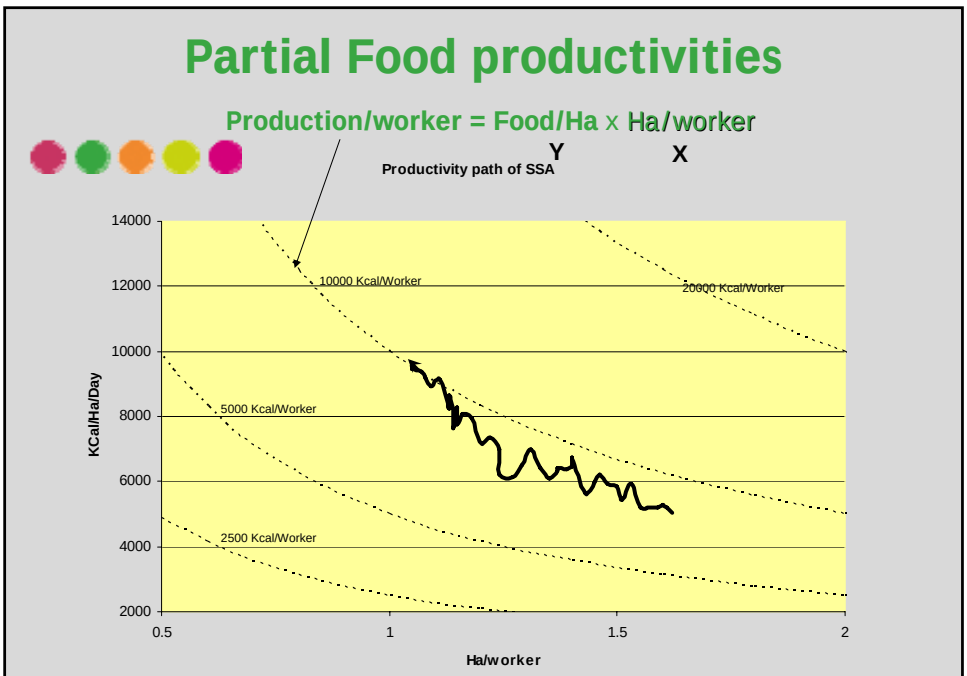

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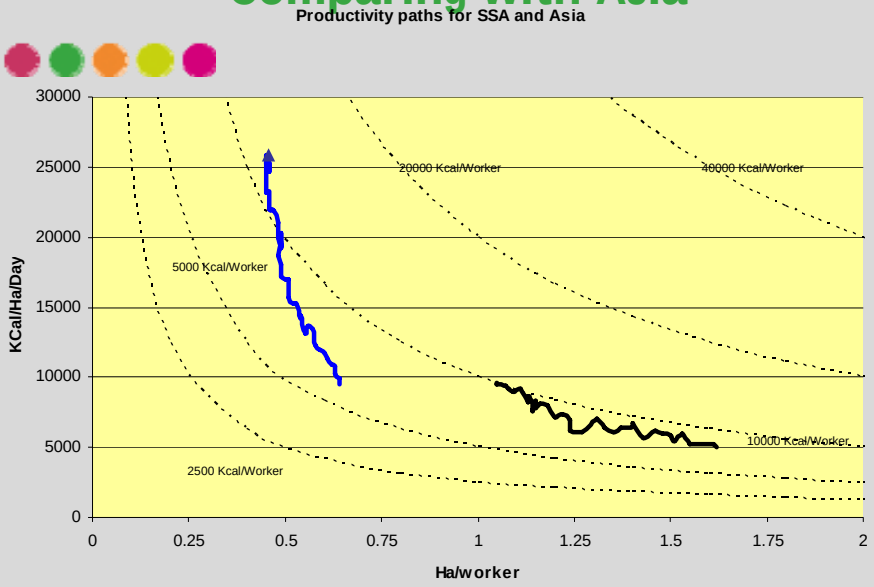
Comparing with Asia



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For the whole Sub Saharan Africa

- Weak food performances
- Limited gains in productivities
- From net exporter to net importer of food (Kcal)

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BUT Africa is so diverse

- Small, big and medium countries
- From desert to equatorial forest
- From very low human densities to high
- From hand cultivation to mechanized
- Annual and perennial crops
- Food crops and cash crops

- We will compare countrie's performances with the global trends and present clusters of trajectories

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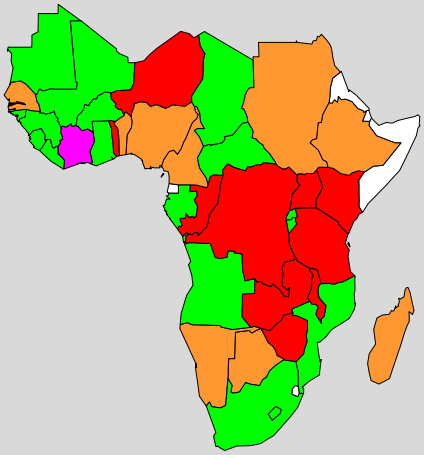
A general demographic boom



- For the period, (43 years) with an average rate of 2,8% total population has been multiplied by 3.1
- A group of countries follows this average trend, another is below (x 2.5), another is over (x3.6) and Ivory Cost is unique(x4.8)

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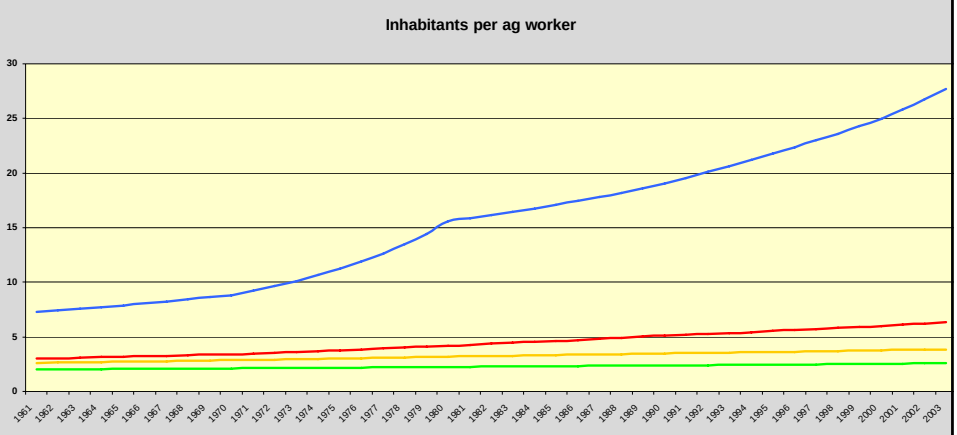
More people to be nourished by agr worker



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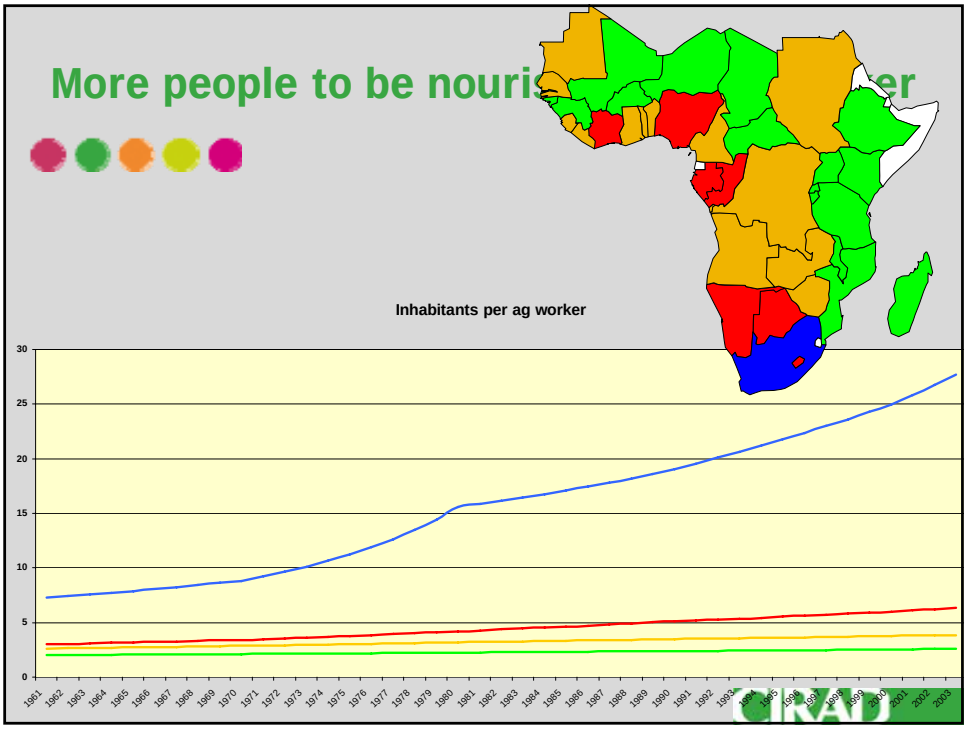
More people to be nouri er



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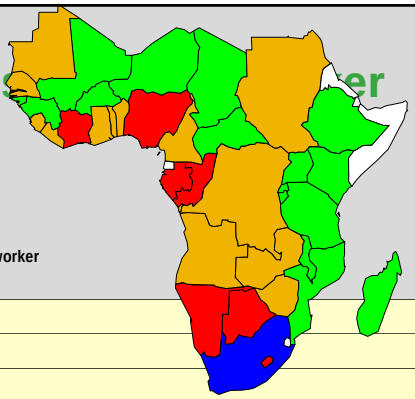
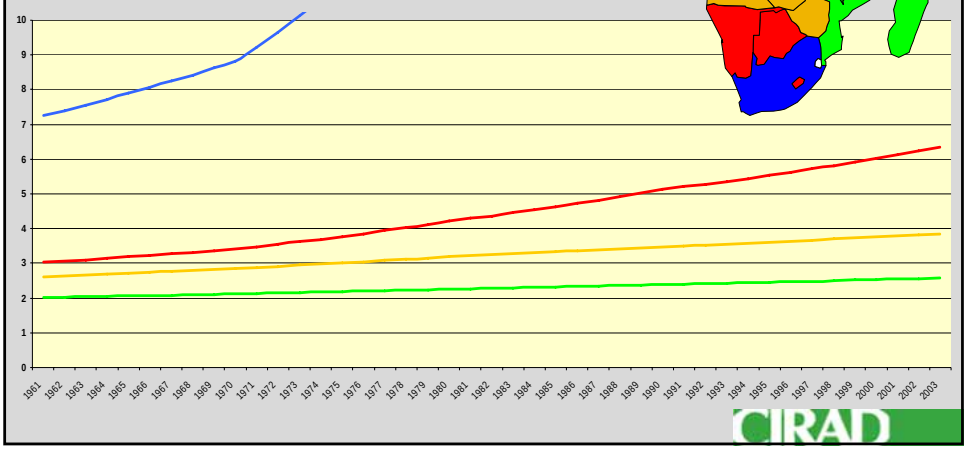
More people to be nouri… …er





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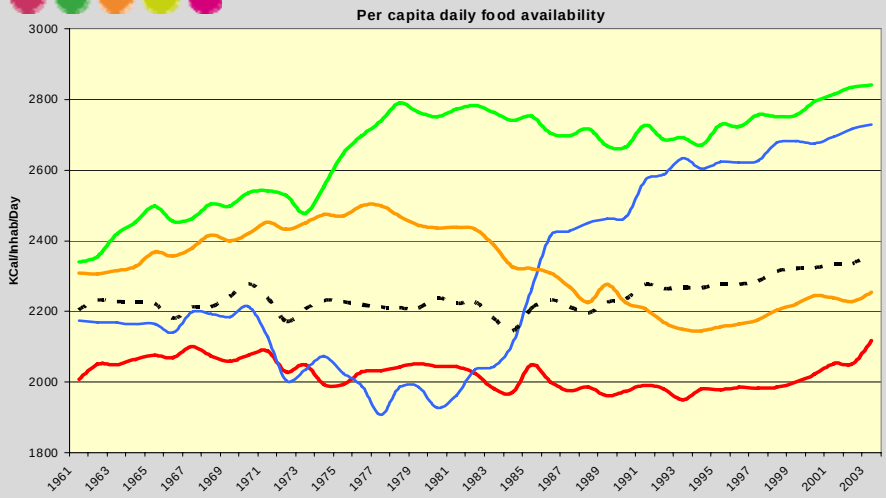
Limited per capita Food availability



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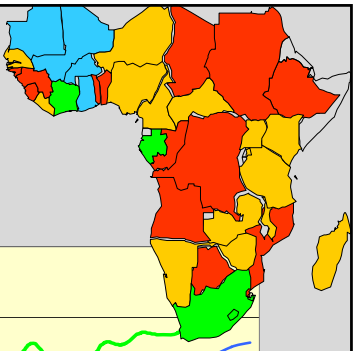
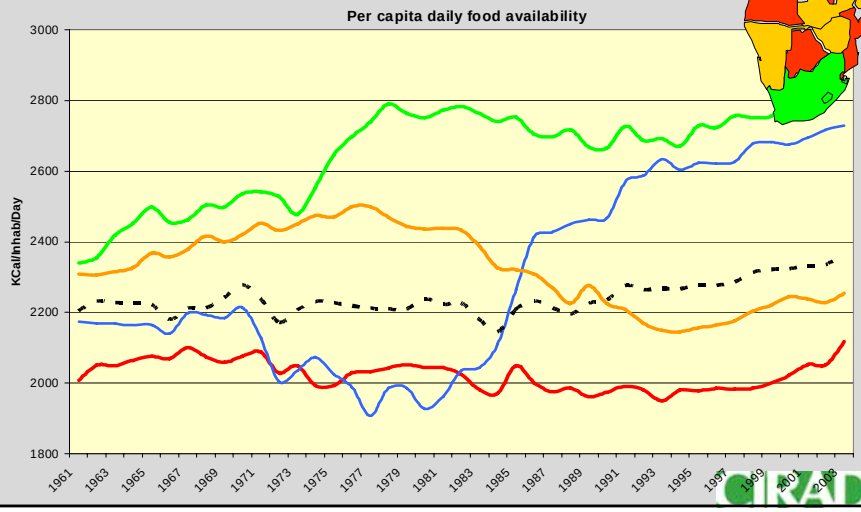
Limited Food availability





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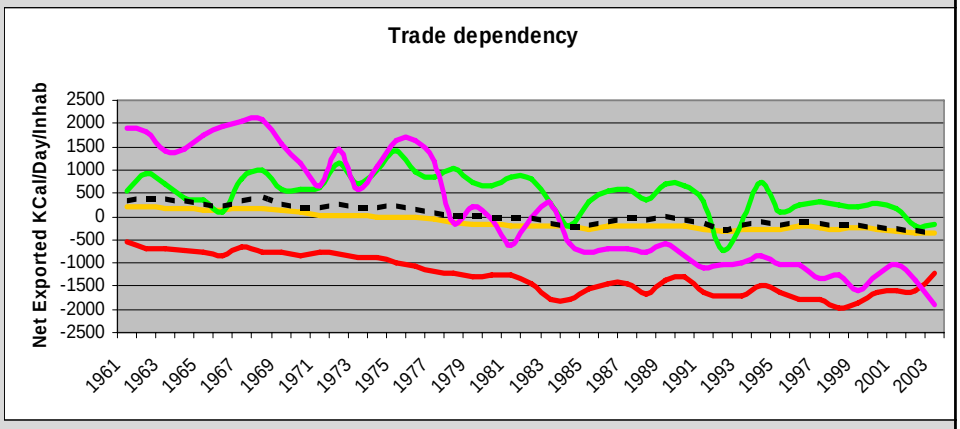
Increasing trade dependency



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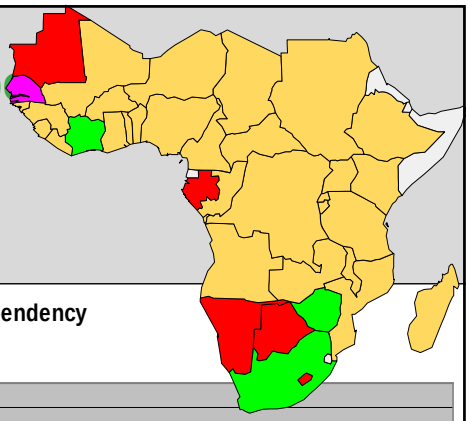
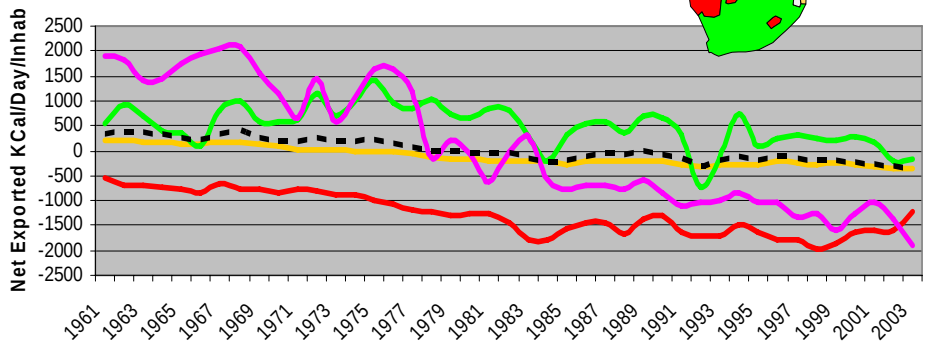
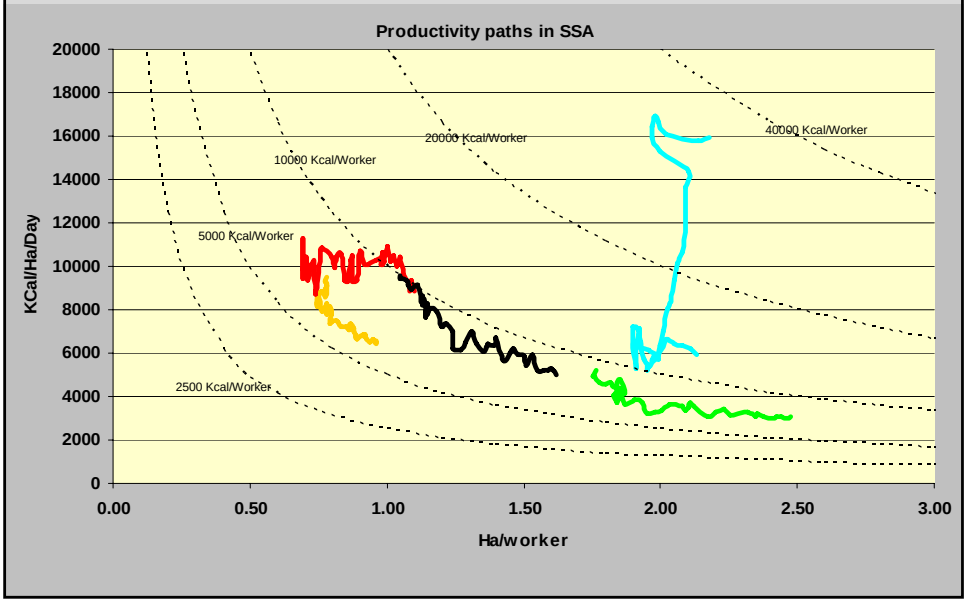
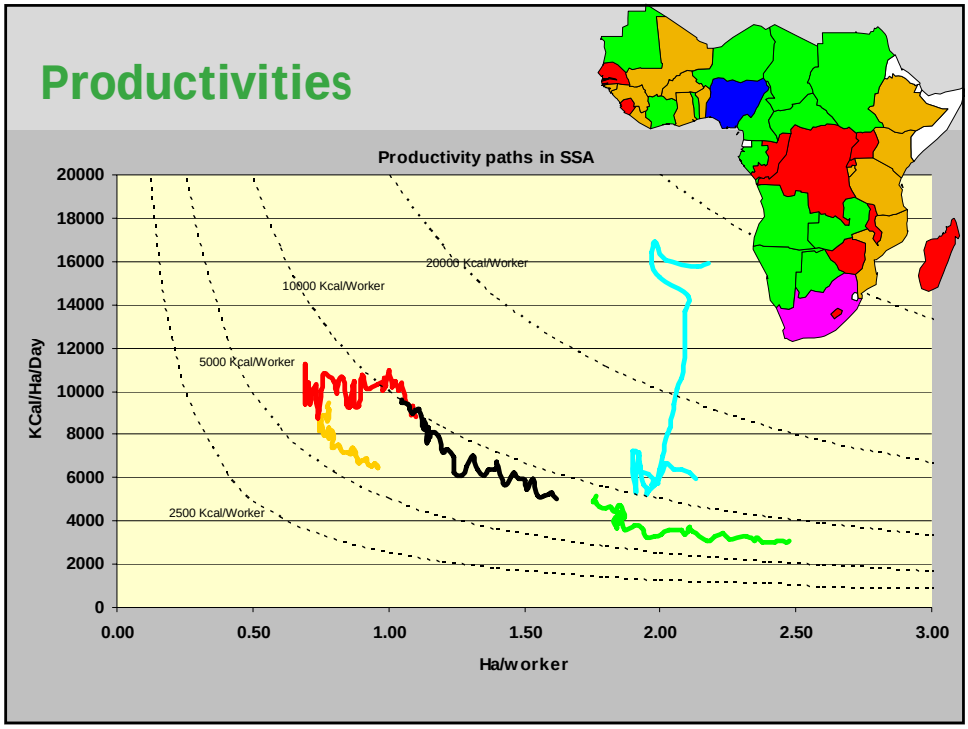


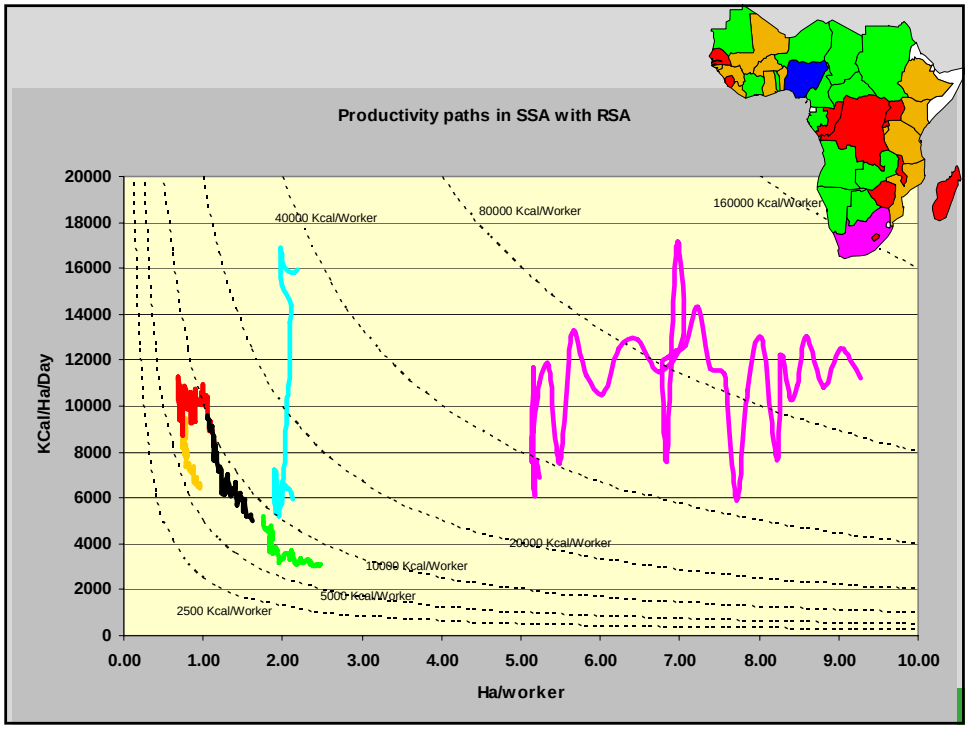


Productivity paths



Productivities





In summary

In SSA between 1961 and 2003:

- Global decrease of per capita food availibility
- Increase of food dependency
- Slight increase of labor productivity
- a decrease of land avaibility/worker

- it was not possible to identify a typical combination of factors accross countries explaining this declining trends (contrary to our working hypothesis).

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Some implications

As each country is specific

- Ready made policies are very questionnable.
- For each country, and even regions inside it, it is important to have a good long period diagnostic.

- Considering demographic perpectives and land limitations, an improvement of agricultural productivities (land and labour) is imperative.
- The challenge is to shift from subsistence to surplus agriculture.

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